

APPENDIX A.

HON. SENATOR FERGUSON'S REPORT

To the President and Members of the Fruit Growers' Association of P. E. Island.

Gentlemen :—The undersigned, having undertaken, in connection with Messrs. Robertson and Sharpe, at the instance of the Association, at the meeting held on the Fourth of October last, the duty of selecting, packing and otherwise managing a trial shipment of apples to be made to England by the steamer "Lake Winnipeg," has the honor to report as follows :—

The difficulty of obtaining apples of the different varieties was found at first to be very great, and when it was ascertained that the "Lake Winnipeg" would not make her departure from Charlottetown until three weeks later than the date announced at the meeting of the Association, and that she was not fitted for carrying apples in cold storage, grave doubts were felt by the undersigned and others as to the prudence of including in the shipment any of what are usually known as the soft varieties. Doubts on this point were greatly strengthened by the opinions of Professor Robertson and the Messrs. Starr of Wolfville, N. S., to whom the undersigned had applied for advice on matters relating generally to the shipment. The lateness of the "Lake Winnipeg's" departure had, however, this compensation, that it suggested the desirability of including other varieties which were considered to be too late in coming to maturity for an October shipment. The general result of this trial shipment shows that, while it is undoubtedly safer to ship all varieties in their accredited season, yet it is plain that Prince Edward Island fruit can, with proper care in preservation and shipment, be placed on the English market at later dates than apples of the same varieties grown in the other Canadian Provinces or the United States. This knowledge shows how great are the possibilities of apple growing for commercial purposes in Prince Edward Island.

Another difficulty was found in inducing the owners of desirable fruit to take the risk of shipment. Much time was spent in efforts in that direction, but without success, until the undersigned put an option before the fruit growers of taking their apples and shipping them on their own account or paying them fair market prices and relieving them of any risk whatever. This proposition had in most cases the desired effect and resulted in 78 barrels being furnished on owners' account, and 55 barrels being purchased by the undersigned at prices ranging according to quality and variety from \$1.50 to \$2.50 per barrel.

It being understood at the October meeting that all matters relating to the

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